

Serial No.09/940,616
HP Docket No: 10017258-1

REMARKS

This communication is in response to the Office Action dated August 21, 2003. Claims 1-20 are pending in the present Application. Claims 1-20 have been rejected. 1-20 remain pending in the present Application.

The present invention is a doorbell arrangement. The doorbell arrangement includes a user interface for entering a user code. The user code is indicative of a specific visitor based on an entered user code. The doorbell arrangement also includes a logic circuit for identifying the specific visitor. The identification of the specific visitor is based on the entered user code. The arrangement further includes a signal transmitter for transmitting a particular response signal. The particular response signal is based on the identification of the user by the logic circuit.

103 Rejections

For ease of review, Applicant reproduces independent claims 1 and 13 herein below:

1. A doorbell arrangement comprising:
a user interface for entering a user code indicative of a specific visitor;
a logic circuit for identifying the specific visitor based on the entered user code; and
a signal transmitter for transmitting a particular response signal wherein the particular response signal is based on the identification of the user by the logic circuit.
13. A method of identifying a visitor by using a doorbell arrangement having a user interface for entering a user code, the method comprising:

Serial No.09/940,616
HP Docket No: 10017258-1

receiving the user code via the user interface wherein the user code is indicative of the visitor;
automatically identifying the visitor from the user code; and
transmitting a signal in response to the identification of the visitor, wherein the response signal is indicative of the visitor.

The Examiner states:

Claims 1-3, 5-16 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lutes (5,673,016) in view of Mozer (5,657,380).
Claims 4 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lutes in view of Mozer as applied to claims 1 and 14, respectively, and further in view of Puchek et al (6,496,595).

Claims 1 and 13

The present invention as recited in varying forms of the independent claims includes a doorbell arrangement and method of use thereof. The doorbell arrangement includes a user interface for entering a user code. The user code is indicative of a specific visitor. The doorbell arrangement also includes a logic circuit for identifying the specific visitor. The identification of the specific visitor is based on the entered user code. The arrangement further includes a signal transmitter for transmitting a particular response signal. The particular response signal is based on the identification of the user by the logic circuit.

The Examiner asserts that the present invention is unpatentable in view of Lutes and Mozer. The Lutes reference discloses a multifunction visitor information system for use in association with a building structure including an electrical system, intercom system, doorbell system, security system and telephone system. The Lutes apparatus includes a central control unit formed in a planar configuration with an essentially hollow interior, the control unit being couplable to a desired mounting surface, the control unit including at least one light, a liquid crystal display panel and a plurality of function

Serial No.09/940,616
HP Docket No: 10017258-1

buttons being positioned within the display unit and operatively coupled to the liquid crystal display panel, the function buttons permitting users to send a plurality of different coded sequences to the panel thereby causing different messages to be displayed on the panel.

The Examiner asserts that the Lutes reference does not disclose the claimed logic circuit for identifying a visitor based on the user code but it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art the time the invention was made to incorporate the chip (34) of Mozer (column 5, lines 1-5) into the circuitry of Lutes. Although a logic circuit is not specifically shown by Lutes, some form of logic circuit means would have been necessary in the display (18) of Lutes, since specific messages would have been relayed to specific visitors based on the sequence of button pushed by the visitor, thereby causing a logical process to occur so as to determine specific message to be displayed (see: column 5, lines 20-32). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

When making an obvious rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103, a necessary condition is that the combination of the cited references must teach or suggest all claim limitations. If the cited references do not teach or suggest every element of the claimed invention, then the cited references fail to render obvious the claimed invention, i.e. the claimed invention is distinguishable over the combination of the cited references.

The Examiner states that the incorporation of the chip of Mozer into the display of Lutes would have provided an adequate, compact, and inexpensive means for performing the desired functions of the device of Lutes. The cited portion of the Mozer reference reads as follows:

Serial No. 09/940,616
HP Docket No: 10017258-1

A block diagram of the circuitry inside the interior unit is shown in FIG. 3. At the heart of the system is an RSC-164 audio processor chip 34 available from Sensory Circuits of San Jose, Calif. Among other things, the RSC-164 chip is capable of speech synthesis, speech recognition, music synthesis, digital audio recording, digital audio playback, and script processing. There is a small RAM on-chip for short term calculation and storage, and a small ROM on-chip for storing the programs for performing speech recognition, synthesis, etc. The chip operates at a clock speed determined by a crystal 36. A mic receives audio signals and sends a corresponding electrical signal to a preamp and gain control circuit. This circuit is controlled by an automatic gain control (AGC) circuit that is, in turn, controlled by the RSC-164 chip. After being amplified by the preamp, the electrical signal enters the RSC-164 chip where it passes through a multiplexer and an analog-to-digital converter. The resulting digital signal then passes through a logic circuit and enters the processor for recording or recognition. Another input signal to the RSC-164 chip is generated by a simple button. (Emphasis added.)

The Examiner is essentially equating the Mozer circuit with the logic circuit of the recited invention. Applicant respectfully disagrees. The recited invention includes "...a logic circuit for identifying the specific visitor based on the entered user code...". The logic circuit compares and matches entered user codes with stored codes. When a user code matches a stored code, a visitor is identified. The circuit of Mozer deals specifically with audio signals and is capable of speech synthesis, speech recognition, music synthesis, digital audio recording and digital audio playback. Applicant asserts that comparing and matching entered user codes with stored codes is clearly different from the implementation of audio signals, speech synthesis, speech recognition, music synthesis, digital audio recording and digital audio playback.

Applicant therefore asserts that since comparing and matching entered user codes with stored codes is clearly different from the implementation of audio signals, speech synthesis, speech recognition, music synthesis, digital audio recording and digital audio playback, the logic circuit of the recited invention is clearly different from the Mozer circuit. Consequently, since the logic circuit of the recited invention is clearly different

Serial No.09/940,616
HP Docket No: 10017258-1

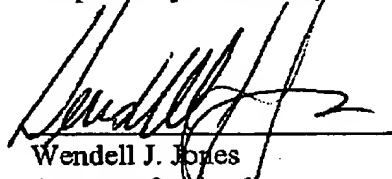
from the Mozer circuit, the Examiner's proposed combination of the Lutes reference and the Mozer reference does not teach or suggest every claim limitation of the present invention. Consequently, the present invention is not obvious in view of the Examiner's proposed combination.

Claims 2-12 and 14-20

Since claims 2-12 and 14-20 are respectively dependent on claims 1 and 13, the above-articulated arguments with regard to claims 1 and 13 apply with equal force to claims 2-12 and 14-20. Accordingly, claims 2-12 and 14-20 should be allowed over the Examiner's cited references.

Applicant believes that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue of the claims as now presented. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



Wendell J. Jones
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 45,961
(408) 938-0980